ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MIDDLEBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY

OF

MIDDLEBORO, MASS.

For the Year Ending December 31

1942

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January 11, 1943.

To the President and Board of Trustees,

Middleborough Public Library:

This first year of World War II has affected public libraries as well as every other organization and individual in the land. As our citizens go deeper and deeper into war, they turn more and more to books; to some serious books to attempt to read reason into this war and to others for mental refreshment and relaxation. It is the aim and goal of the Middleborough Public Library to be ever ready with the best in either category, to produce the very book which will provide information for the serious reader and worker as well as the volume which will bring rest and entertainment to the reader who wishes for the moment to be lifted out of the unpleasant present. More people than ever are availing themselves of the facilities of the reading and reference rooms and if the circulation of books is not equal to other years it is because many of our customary readers are busily engaged in war industries.

WORK WITH SCHOOLS

The schools and the library continue to work in close cooperation, with the librarian making frequent visits to various grades to acquaint the pupils with new books and to tell stories. Especially in the rural schools does she receive a royal welcome. All the schools are enthusiastically enrolled in the State Certificate Reading plan. During the year 798 certificates representing five books read and 98 honor certificates representing twenty books read, were awarded. Honors for the most certificates went to Grade Six of School Street School. The excellent circulation of children's books is due in a large measure to this plan of State Certificate Reading.

The series of five classes of instruction in the use of the library given to Junior High School pupils was carried on in the Fall, and other groups of lower grades have visited the library on "Get Acquainted with Your Library" tours. Witnessing these tours of school children has suggested to many older patrons that they, too, would like to visit unfamiliar regions of the library. Some of them have been users of the library for years but have never seen the attractive rooms which house the Lecture Room, Trustees Room, the Middleborough Historical collection and the Thomas Sproat Peirce collection.

ACTIVITIES

The major activity for 1942 was in connection with the Victory Book Campaign collecting books for men in service. The response was excellent and 911 volumes were sent to the camps. More than twice that number of books was received, but in weeding them out and selecting those suitable to send to camps, many volumes were disposed of in other ways.

The library has been fortunate in having the opportunity of presenting several interesting and unusual exhibits. In a vicinity rich in Indian lore, the earth hereabout has given up some rare and valuable relics. These have been excavated and gathered together by the Middleborough Archaeological Society, the members of which arranged an extensive exhibit in the art gallery of the library. This display of stone utensils, arrowheads, cooking pots and reconstructed skeletons drew an unusual amount of interest and attention.

In May Miss Nathalie Burnett, a local art student, arranged a display of her own work. Many complimentary comments were heard regarding Miss Burnett's ability.

Directly following this exhibition was one of posters by Middleboro High School students on the subject of Anti-Propaganda. Thirty posters were entered in the contest and judges awarded four prizes of defense stamps.

A collection of books on "The United Nations" is kept continually by the "World Map of the Week," thus bringing to attention and into circulation books on a vital subject which might otherwise be overlooked.

During Book Week in November in addition to the usual display of new books for adult and juvenile and of posters, through the kindness of the Perkins Institution for the Blind in Watertown, the Commission for the Blind of Massachusetts and Mrs. Ralph Creamer of Middleboro, we were able to exhibit many methods and examples of Braille printing. Of especial interest was the contrast between the one volume of "Captain Paul" as we read it and the seven huge volumes required for the same book printed in Braille.

One exhibit of books was held away from the library in connection with the American Home Day meeting of the Cabot Club. A group of books on interior decorating, gardening, cooking and other phases of homekeeping was displayed at the meeting in the Unitarian Church.

A bulletin board has been maintained to keep patrons informed on the activities of the Women's Volunteer Defense Service.

THE STAFF

The personnel of the staff has remained unchanged during the year, with Miss Bassett, a part time worker, serving much extra time as a result of Miss Pratt's incapacity because of a serious accident in March.

A member of the commercial department of the High School joined the staff in June for a few weeks of practice work, Miss Mary Mackiewicz being the student assigned to the library. Miss Eleanor Southwick, who contemplates making library work her profession, worked with us during the summer to gain experience in the work.

The South Middleboro Branch has been competently cared for by volunteer workers of the vicinity. Miss Lucy Braley, Miss Helen Graham and Mrs. Joseph Phillips have given most generously of their time. Miss Corinne Cahoon at present is the librarian in charge. Due to dimout regulations and to save fuel and light, the branch will be closed beginning January sixth at six o'clock, the hours of opening to be from two to six o'clock each Wednesday afternoon.

On the Saturdays following Christmas and New Year, at the request of the Governor, the main library remained closed to conserve fuel.

One of the most generous gifts the library received was from Mr. Clifton W. Tillson, brother of a former Trustee, who presented to the library many volumes from the private library of Mr. Leonard O. Tillson. In addition gifts of books and magazines have been received from the following:

Miss Jane Bennett
Miss Nellie M. Bennett
Miss Chrystal M. Chase
Mrs. George H. Higgins
Mrs. J. Douglas Johnston
Mrs. Nellie Maxim
Mrs. Rufus H. Richmond
Mr. Harold S. Thomas
Mrs. John G. Tinkham
Mr. William C. Waugh
The Ladies' Sodality of the Sacred Heart Church
The Middleborough Garden Club
The Middleborough Kiwanis Club
The Central Methodist Church
The Cabot Club
The Simeon L. Nickerson Post No. 64, American Legion

To the above and the many others who have contributed much toward the well-being of the library and effectiveness of the year's work, sincere thanks are due. To the staff and Board of Trustees whose efforts and cooperation have made possible whatever goals have been achieved and progress made, my sincere appreciation.

Respectfully submitted,

MERTIE E. WITBECK,
Librarian.

Middleboro Public Library Statistics

Circulation of books

Central library

Fiction	42,575
Philosophy	185
Religion	125
Sociology	786
Languages	90
Sciences	352
Useful Arts	1,234
Fine Arts	929
Literature	992
History	1,225
Travel	1,164
Biography	1,471
Magazines	5,898
Foreign books	102
Rental books	1,667
	58,795

Juvenile circulation		
Fiction	10,896	
Non-fiction	8,159	
		19,055
Branches and Deposits		
South Middleboro Branch	2,000	
Montgomery Home	100	
Bates School	210	
School Street School	1,298	
Pleasant Street School	349	
Plymouth Street School	251	
Waterville School	224	
		4,432
Total circulation 1942		82,282
Total circulation 1941		84,863
Decrease in circulation 1942		2,581
Number of volumes owned January 1, 1942		38,642
Number of volumes added by purchase	1,028	
Number of volumes added by gift	240	
Number of volumes added by binding magazines	23	
Number of volumes transferred from rental collection	70	
Total number of volumes added 1942		1,361
		40,003
Number of volumes lost and discarded		705
Number of volumes owned December 31, 1942		39,298
Number of magazines currently received		98
Number of newspapers currently received		12
Number of borrowers January 1, 1942		4,021
Borrowers' cards issued 1942		
Adults	212	
Juvenile	190	
Number of cards issued 1942	402	
Number of borrowers re-registered	30	
	432	
Total number of borrowers December 31, 1942		4,453

Report of the Treasurer for the Year 1942

Peirce Fund Receipts

Balance January 1, 1942	96.59	
Received from Peirce Trustees	1,914.45	
Houghton Mifflin Co. Overpayment	3.65	2,014.69

Peirce Fund Payments

Books, Periodicals and Newspapers	2,002.50	
Balance December 31, 1942	12.19	2,014.69

Special Fund Receipts

Books Sales	243.40	
Rental Books	167.02	
Interest Harriet C. Beals Fund	20.00	
Interest Harriet O. Peirce Fund	10.00	
Interest Copeland Fund	55.00	
Interest Enoch Pratt Fund	313.36	
Balance January 1, 1942	217.45	1,026.23

Special Fund Payments

Old Colony Library Association	2.00	
Books	243.40	
Binding	187.98	
Middleboro Trust Co.	4.80	
Supplies	13.30	
Librarian of Congress	19.44	
Pratt Fund Payments	20.85	
Balance December 31, 1942	534.46	1,026.23

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS H. KELLY,
Treasurer.